

Message Text

SECRET

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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6101

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 4138

NODIS

CHEROKES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT

REF: SINGAPORE 4116

1. FOREIGN MINISTER RAKARATNAM'S PURPOSE IN CALLING ME TO FOREIGN MINISTRY SEPTEMBER 2 WAS TO INFORM ME OF LETTER SENT TO PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW BY AMBASSADOR MONTEIRO ASKING IF IT WOULD BE CONVENIENT FOR THE SECRETARY AND MRS. KISSINGER TO VISIT SINGAPORE LATTER PART OF OCTOBER FOLLOWING VISIT BY SECRETARY AND MRS. KISSINGER TO THE PHILIPPINES. RAJARUTNAM STATED ON BEHALF OF PRIME MINISTER LEE THAT VISIT BY THE SECRETARY AND MRS. KISSINGER IN THIS TIME FRAME WOULD BE WELCOME, WITH THE PROVISIO THAT PRIME MINISTER LEE AND MRS. LEE WOULD BE PAYING OFFICIAL VISIT TO AUSTRALIA OCTOBER 17-29. THE SECRETARY AND MRS. KISSINGER WOULD BE WELCOME IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARD, PERHAPS ALLOWING TIME OF DAY OR SO FOR PRIME MINISTER LEE TO PICK UP THE THREAD OF EVENTS IN SINGAPORE FOR ABOUT A DAY FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM AUSTRALIA. FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM WENT ON TO SAY THAT IF THIS TIMING DID NOT SUIT THE SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR PRIME MINISTER LEE TO KNOCK A DAY OR TWO OFF HIS STAY IN AUSTRALIA.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SINGAP 04138 021255Z

2. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE SECRETARY AND MRS. KISSINGER

WILL BE WELCOME GUESTS IN SINGAPORE. A PROPOSAL
OF POSSIBLE READJUSTMENT IN SCHEDULE OF PRIME MINISTER
LEE'S AUSTRALIA VISIT, AT LUNCHEON IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW-
ING MY MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER, I HEARD DEPUTY
PERMSEC TAN BOON SENG TELL AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER
BIRCH THAT TIME PRIME MINISTER LEE WAS SPENDING IN
AUSTRALIA SEEMED A BIT LONG, AND THAT SINGAPORE MIGHT
REQUEST VISIT BE SHORTENED BY TWO DAYS OR SO. I LATER
VERIFIED WITH TAN BOON SENG THAT THIS CURTAILMENT WAS
IN PART IN ANTICIPATION OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO
SINGAPORE. I DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT ANY FURTHER ADJUST-
MENT IN PRIME MINISTER LEE'S AUSTRALIAN VISIT WOULD
BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT OFFENDING THE AUSTRALIANS.
HOLDRIDGE

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NNN

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